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PREFACE

THE information contained in this volume was obtained during the period from July, 1908, to April, 1909, when the author lived with the Cayapa Indians of northwestern Ecuador. This work was suggested to Mr George G. Heye by Prof. Marshall H. Saville, when he found the rich archeological deposits at La Tolita, near the mouth of Rio Santiago, and was undertaken for the purpose of obtaining information with which to solve certain problems connected with the highly developed prehistoric art in pottery and metalwork shown especially in and about the mounds at La Tolita. The results of the present research have failed to give any clew to the manufacturers of these archeological objects, owing to the great antiquity of the culture represented by them and to the fact that the Cayapa Indians are comparatively recent immigrants into this region. However, many interesting and important observations concerning the ethnology of the region were made, and the results of these are here offered as a contribution to the ethnology of this hitherto little known region of northwestern South America. Forming as they did a part of the field research of the Marie Antoinette Heye Expedition, the studies whose results are the subject of the present work were due to Mrs Heye's interest and generous patronage.

The author left San Francisco in June, 1908, so calculating the time of his journey as to connect, via New Orleans and Colon, with a vessel of the Pacific Naviga-

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tion Company at Panama for Esmeraldas. Owing, however, to the irregularity of schedule along this western coast, it was necessary to remain a fortnight in Panama until the next steamer sailed. The arrival of this vessel from the south brought a welcome visit from Professor Saville, who, returning from a summer's archeological research in Ecuador, was able to give further valued information concerning the region to be visited and the encouraging news that health conditions there were then favorable.

Finally, after a voyage of five days, with the usual stops at Buenaventura and Tumaco, our vessel dropped anchor in the harbor of Esmeraldas, where the author was warmly greeted by Mr George D. Hedian, American consular agent at Esmeraldas. Mr Hedian had known Professor Saville for three years and had participated with him in the archeological expedition of the previous summer. His cordial interest, therefore, was threefold: that of a consul, that of a coworker, and, above all, that interest born of whole-souled friendship, as was amply proved throughout the author's stay in the region, and especially evidenced by his fraternal kindness in times of illness and on many other occasions. Mr Hedian's good advice concerning methods of travel and health precautions, and his kind offices in arranging matters of business concerning the expedition, were a result of long residence in the region and of thorough knowledge of the country and its people. The writer takes this opportunity to express his personal appreciation of Mr Hedian's many courtesies.

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It seemed best for the writer to remain in Esmeraldas for about a week in order to recuperate from a slight fever contracted at Tumaco during a canoe trip of a few hours to inspect the mounds on El Morro island in the bay of Tumaco. During this week he also had an opportunity to meet all the people of importance in Esmeraldas, the capital and chief city of the province of the same name, and to outfit so far as was necessary for the trip up the Rio Cayapas. Among others the author met the Governor of the province, who kindly gave him letters of recommendation to the local teniente politico at La Tola.

Finally, passage was obtained for La Tolita on a balandra, or small sloop. The author was accompanied by Mr Hedian, who had arranged his affairs in order to accompany him among the Indians and to see that he was properly introduced to some of their head-men.

After a journey of two days we disembarked at La Tolita, where we were hospitably received by Señor Don Pablo I. Sánchez, owner of the hacienda, and by Señor Don Calixto Ramírez, his business manager. Both of these estimable Spanish gentlemen facilitated in every way the work of the expedition, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge their many kindnesses. Mention must also be made of the tender care given the author during illness by these two and by Señora Sánchez, Señor Don Maximiliano Sánchez, and Señor Don Manuel. Acknowledgment should also be made to these friends for their interest in obtaining a considerable collection of pottery and stone objects from

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PREFACE

The field work among the Cayapa Indians of Esmeraldas province in Western Ecuador upon which this thesis is based, was carried out from August 19, 1959 to October 25, 1960. The field research was financed by a Doherty Foundation Fellowship and a research grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health, United States Public Health Service.

The main focus of the research was in the area of social control through law and government. A dimension of great significance for the study was supplied by the functional realist approach to law propounded both in text and the lecture-room by Professor E. Adamson Hoebel. Professor Hoebel made it very clear that Law is a living operation, and the product of living beings whose personalities have been shaped by a living culture. Working through the matrix of culture and personality, law has in some societies reached heights of human magnificence and orderly elegance, and perhaps as often, in some of the ethnographic backwaters,